

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8152

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652:\$2 ./A

TAGS: PFOR, PE, UY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS

REF: LIMA 0849

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVIS

1. AS YOU KNOW, WHEN THE SUBJECT CAME UP AT THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING, I FULLY AIRED MY FEELINGS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PUBLICLY CLARIFY THE RECORD AS TO THE TRUE FACTS OF MY DEPARTURE FROM PERU IN THE LIGHT OF THE INVENTIONS AND LIES WHICH PRESIDENT VELASCO HAS CHOSEN TO STATE PUBLICLY ABOUT ME. THE FACT THAT WHATEVER PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE HAVE HAD NO AFFECT ON HIM WHATSOEVER IS MADE EVIDENT BY HIS REPETITION IN A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE OF CHARGES OF MY "CIA AFFILIATION" AND RESULTANT "EXPULSION" FROM PERU AS REPORTED

IN LIMA'S 849. THERE IS THE ADDITIONAL FACT, AS WELL, THAT ACTS TAKEN BY EMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FIRST UNFOUNDED CHARGES TENDED TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CORROBORATED THEM. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE THAT SUCH ACTIONS IN WHICH A CHIEF OF STATE HAS NOW ON TWO OCCASIONS LENT THE WEIGHT OF HIS POSITION TO PREVIOUS MEDIA INVENTIONS HAS WITHOUT QUESTION ADDED

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TO SECURITY RISKS FOR ME AND FOR MY FAMILY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE

REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AN EDITORIAL APPEARING HERE WHICH WAS BASED ON THE PERUVIAN CHARGES BUT DISTORTED THEM TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT I WAS WORKING AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE BORDABERRY GOVERNMENT. AS I BELIEVE YOU ALSO KNOW, LUIGI EINAUDI TOLD ME THAT A LONDON PUBLICATION RECENTLY ACCUSED ME OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MURDER OF COL. TRABAL IN PARIS. THE REASON HERE BEING THAT SINCE I AM

ANTI-PERUVIAN (ACCORDING TO VELASCO) AND SINCE COL. TRABAL WAS SUPPOSEDLY A PERUANISTA-TYPE URUGUAYAN OFFICIAL I HAD HIM KILLED TO PREVENT HIM FROM COMING HOME TO TEAM UP WITH GEN. ALVAREZ WHO IS SAID ALSO TO BE PERUANISTA. ALSO COMMUNIST PARTY PUBLICATIONS IN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY HAVE FEATURED FRONTPAGE ARTICLES WITH VASCO'S PHOTOGRAPHS ALONGSIDE MY OWN AND THEY REPEAT HIS CHARGES. THE PUBLIC IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH THINGS AMONG THOSE PRONE TO BELIEVE THEM HAS OBVIOUS SECURITY IMPLICATIONS IN A COUNTRY WHICH HAS AN ACTIVE TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS NOT IN THE PAST HESITATED TO KIDNAP AND KILL. THERE IS ALSO THE SIMPLE FACT OF MY REPUTATION WHICH I VALUE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE THE REMARKS AGAINST ME ACCORDING TO REFTTEL WERE APPARENTLY CENSORED OUT OF THE PUBLISHED OFFICIAL VERSION OF VELASCO'S REMARKS IT IS NONETHELESS TRUE THAT HE DID MAKE THEM AND THAT THEY WERE RECORDED AND WILL BE USED BY THOSE WHO WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT. I RESENT HIS CONTINUING TO IMPUNE MY INTEGRITY AS A DIPLOMAT AND TO DISTORT THE RECORD OF WORK FOR MY OWN COUNTRY AND OF FRIENDSHIP FOR PERU WHICH I MADE OVER SIX YEARS IN THAT COUNTRY AND OF WHICH I AM JUSTLY PROUD. I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT OWES IT TO ITS DIPLOMATS TO PROTECT THEIR REPUTATIONS WHEN THEY ARE UNJUSTLY SULLIED AS INDICATED ABOVE. I FULLY REALIZE THAT DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO POLEMICS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF PERU BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE GRAIN OF TRUTH IN WHAT HE HAS SAID ABOUT ME (WHICH HE KNOWS FULL WELL) AND I THINK THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO PUBLICLY AND OPENLY STATE THAT. ACQUIESCENCE BY SILENCE, FAR FROM WINNING HIS FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT, WILL ONLY CAUSE HIM SCORN US AS WEAK. THAT IS THE TYPE MAN HE IS.
SIRACUSA

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